REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated January 25, 2008. Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-25 are pending in the Application. Claims 1 and 17 are independent claims.

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of all the priority documents.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 10-12 and 19-20 are allowable if amended to be in independent form.

In the Office Action, the drawings are objected to because of lack of the label "Prior Art" in FIGs. 1 and 2. In response, "Prior Art" has been added to FIGs. 1 and 2. A replacement sheet including FIGs. 1 and 2 is enclosed. It is respectfully submitted that the drawings are now in proper form and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Claim 11 is objected to for an informality. In response, claim 11 is amended to remove the informality noted by the Office

Action. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claim 11 is respectfully requested.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite due to the term "5 bit digital word ..." While the Applicants believe that a person of ordinary skill in the art would readily appreciate what a "5 bit digital word" means without further clarification, in the interest of furthering consideration and allowance of the pending application, the Applicants have elected to amend claim 6 in accordance with the suggestion contained in the Office Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 6 is in proper form and it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claims 1-9, 13-18 and 21-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0146896 to Sekine ("Sekine"). These rejections are respectfully traversed. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-25 are allowable over Sekine for at least the following reasons.

Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), (emphasis provided) "[a] person shall be entitled to a patent unless -- the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the

United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent ..."

Sekine has a U.S. filing date of January 30, 2003. The present patent application is based on PCT Patent Application Publication No. WO 2004/027747, filed on September 5, 2003 and claims priority to GB Patent Application No. 0221745.3 ("Priority Document"), filed on September 19, 2002. The Office Action acknowledges receipt of all priority documents. Accordingly, the present patent application has a priority date, under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), of September 19, 2002 which is prior to the priority date of Sekine. Accordingly, Sekine is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

For at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted Sekine is not prior art to the present patent application. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-25 are allowable and an indication to that effect is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the

presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

Applicants have made a diligent and sincere effort to place this application in condition for immediate allowance and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By _____

Gregory L. Thorne, Reg. 39,398
Attorney for Applicant(s)
April 21, 2008

Enclosure: Replacement drawing sheet (1 sheet including FIGs. 1, 2)

THORNE & HALAJIAN, LLP
Applied Technology Center
111 West Main Street
Bay Shore, NY 11706
Tel: (631) 665-5139
Fax: (631) 665-5101